THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 28. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

The Women's Hall, Bow

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST

Mrs. WALKER.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Saturday, Sept. 26th, 3 p.m.—319 East India Dock Road—Poster parade.

Sunday, Sept. 27th, 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Somers.

8 p.m.—Women's Hall—Miss S. Pankhurst Mrs. Walker.

Monday, Sept. 28th, 8 p.m.—Lesbia Road—Miss Davies.

8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—Mr. C. Gray.

Tuesday, Sept. 29th, 2.30 p.m.—30 Churchill Road (indoors)—Miss Harley.

8 p.m.—Poplar, 319 East India Dock Road—Miss Barry.

8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Road—Miss Fedden.

Wednesday, Sept. 30th, 8 p.m.—Poplar, East India Dock Gates—Mrs. Drake.

8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mr. V. Duval.

Thursday, Oct. 1st, 3 p.m.—Deacon's Vestry—Mrs. Bouvier.

3 p.m.—Poplar Office—Mrs. Drake.

8 p.m.—Knapp Road.—Mrs. Walker.

8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd.—Miss Lynch.

Friday, Oct. 2nd, 8 p.m.—Canning Town Beckton Rd.—Mrs. Walker.

8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Miss Somers.

AT OUR NEW CENTRE

Bromley Women's Hall

RAILWAY ST., SOUTH BROMLEY,

PUBLIC MEETINGS every Friday afternoon and Monday night.

BOW WOMAN'S HALL,

Public Meetings, 3 p.m.

OUR PAPER.

West London friends who are willing to sell the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT, or to collect for the E.L.F.S. relief funds, should call on Miss Z. P. Emerson at flat A, 21 Coram Street, W.C., between 3 and 6 on Wednesday afternoons.

East London friends should apply to Mrs. Bouvier, 321 Roman Road, Bow, or to the local secretaries—*see District Reports back page.*

All subscriptions to the E.L.F.S. relief and general funds, should be posted to the Hon. Treasurer, at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

POPLAR COUNCIL.

SOLDIER'S PAY.

At the Poplar Borough Council meeting, Mrs. Attlee called attention to the interpretation of the Council's resolution with regard to the payments to wives of soldiers. She found that some of the wives were getting less than before, which was not the intention of the Council.

The question was referred to the Finance Committee.

Councillor E. Lansbury moved that the public gallery and floor be open to the public on the usual terms.

Mrs. Attlee seconded the amendment. She mentioned that the Government had declared an amnesty with the Suffragists, and welcomed them back to ordinary life.

An amendment to admit the public to the gallery only on the usual terms, and according to the accommodation available, was carried, on a division, by 21 votes to 12.

The President of the Local Government Board is sending an inspector to enquire into the conditions under which men are employed to build huts for Messrs. Jackson, Government Contractors, at Bulford Camp, Wilts. We published last week a letter which a man at this camp sent to his wife, Lizzie.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION of the SUFFRAGETTES & Mr. JOHN BURNS

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes having applied for deputations to the Local Government Board and the Cabinet Committee, to put forward the views and experience of the Federation in regard to the distress caused by the War, a letter was received on September 15, stating that Mr. John Burns, chairman of the Committee for London would see Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and one other member of the E.L.F.S. at the Local Government Board Offices next morning. Mrs. Drake, the wife of a labourer in Canning Town, went as the second representative of the Federation.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst stated that the Federation wished them to deal with a number of points, and that she would deal first with Poor Law relief.

SCALE OF POOR LAW RELIEF SHOULD BE INCREASED.

It was felt that the scale of Poor Law relief should be increased in East London and all over the country. People who were in receipt of Poor Law relief were not held by Relief Committees to be entitled to help from the Prince of Wales's fund, but these people were suffering with others because of the War. Sources of income, such as charing, hawking and various forms of casual labour on which they had depended, and which the Poor Law grants had been used to supplement, were either reduced or had disappeared altogether. Moreover the rising prices of food stuffs made it impossible now to make ends meet with the money that had sufficed before. The scale of relief given by the Poplar Guardians was considered generous as compared with that of many other Boards, but it was not by any means adequate at the present time.

Miss S. Pankhurst quoted the case of a family where the husband, who used to earn 24s., had been unemployed for nine weeks. There were five children aged eleven to three years. The Parish only allowed 5s. worth of food, and four pints of milk.

A woman who kept a little cats' meat shop lived with her mother who was an old age pensioner. The mother was too infirm to be left, and the daughter was also delicate. The price of cats' meat had gone up and the people were less and less able to buy. The takings in the shop did not always cover the rent. The daughter had applied to the Poor Law for relief but had been refused.

Mrs. Drake told of a case of a Mrs. B., who had three children—a boy of 16 years who was deaf and dumb, a boy of 13 a cripple, and a girl of 12 also deaf and dumb. The husband had been abroad for years, and was last heard of in March, but had sent no money home. The deaf and dumb boy had learnt boot-making, but could not get any to do. The rent was 4s. a week. Mrs. B. went to the relieving officer and was told she must go to the work-house. She refused to do this as it would mean separation from her children. There was neither food nor light in the house and she was sent empty away.

FEEDING OF CHILDREN.

Miss S. Pankhurst said that the need for the feeding of school children on Saturdays and Sundays, and for the feeding of children under school age was the next point which the Federation wished to urge.

If children should be fed by the community on weekdays because their parents could not provide food for them, it was surely illogical to leave them to starve on Saturdays and Sundays. Little children under school age needed food even more than those who were older, and suffered more quickly from periods of starvation.

All the following typical cases were quoted:—

A carrier. Enlisted, but was refused because he was ruptured. Wages when in work

(*Continued on page* III, *col.* 1.)

OUR BOW MILK CENTRE.

HOW LANDLORDS TERRORISE THE POOR.

NOTICE TO QUIT.

FROM LANDLORD TO TENANT.

To Mr.

We hereby give you notice and require you to quit and yield up to us, or the authorised agent, on or before the 29th day of September, the peaceable and quiet possession of all that House

which you now hold and occupy of us, situate at

in the Parish of Poplar, in the County of Middlesex.

Dated this 21st day of September, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fourteen.

Yours, &c.,

Witness

Notice to Tenants refusing to leave after receiving due notice.

TENANTS are informed that unless vacant possession of the premises be given at the expiration of the foregoing Notice to Quit, they will, in accordance with the decisions of the Magistrates, be treated as trespassers, and possession will be taken, and any goods found on the premises will either be removed out of the premises, or will be sold under a Warrant of Distress to pay any rent in arrear at the time, the landlord or his agent not being bound to give any further time or other notice.

A Good Remedy for Bad Lodgers. *—From the Islington Gazette.*

ONE of the applicants to the Magistrates at North London Police Court on Saturday, was a man who said he lived in Drayton Road, Holloway, and had lodgers in his house who refused to obey the Notice to Quit that had been given them. The Magistrate: "You have given them legal Notice to Quit, and you have a right to demand peaceable possession of your rooms; you can put their goods into the street, and shut them out; you may shut the door against them." The Applicant: "What if the door is locked?" The Magistrate: "Get a duplicate key and unlock it."

Eviction at South Tottenham. *—From the Daily Chronicle.*

Mr. J. HILLMAN and his wife were charged with wilfully exposing their three children in a manner as was likely to injure their health. The wife said they took rooms at Templeton Road, but had got into arrears with the rent and had not left after due Notice to Quit from the Landlord. When she arrived home on Tuesday, she found her things and her children had been put into the street. The Magistrate told the tenant "That the Landlord had a right to put them out, as they were practically trespassers in the house."

How to get out a Refractory Tenant.

AN Estate Agent applied to the Magistrate at Clerkenwell Police Court to ask whether he would be justified in taking possession of some rooms in a Block of Dwellings, and removing the goods of the tenant into the street, as Notice to Quit had expired and the tenant had not left. The Magistrate, Mr. R. O. B. LANE, said he always held it was wholly unnecessary for landlords to go to the trouble and expense of obtaining Ejectments from the Police Court in order to obtain possession of their property. If a tenant refused to quit after legal notice had been given, the landlord or his agent, having a right to such possession, could take such possession, and remove out anything they found therein, being careful to commit no breach of the peace. If a landlord preferred not doing so himself, and wanted the officer of the Police Court to do so, then he must take the usual course of ejectment proceedings, but it is not strictly necessary for him to do so, if he chose to do it himself or by his agent.

It is pure supposition on the part of ignorant people that a notice to quit given after noon is no notice at all.—*Judge Cluer.*

WOMEN! JOIN THE
East London Federation of the Suffragettes —
WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

The Mayor still refrains from calling a meeting of the Bow, Bromley and Poplar Local Representative Committee appointed to administer the Prince of Wales' fund. They say there is not yet enough distress!

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

Telephone EAST 422.

Agents:—INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 11 Adam St., Strand, W.C.; LONDON & SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.

Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

No. 28.—Saturday, Sept. 26th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

TEN SHILLINGS A WEEK.

"Let all sink or swim together during the war. Women will safeguard the interests of women and children. Now is the moment for women to show how they can come to their country's aid."

These words and words such as these are being bandied about freely.

Oh women let us be *sure* that we are building a better world, let us be sure that we are prepared to share and share alike, to demand for all our sisters and brothers and their children the same things that we enjoy for ourselves or are longing to enjoy!

Ten shillings a week, ten shillings a week to pay for a woman's labour, ten shillings a week for a mother to maintain herself and a family of little children upon! Ten shillings a week, the walls of Wimborne House are shrieking it, those carved and gilded walls, where charmingly dressed women are moving across the crimson carpets, for ever interviewing charitable persons, and where in the afternoons busy boy scouts are passing to and fro with cups of tea. Ten shillings a week, the Queen should understand what it means in Buckingham Palace and the Cabinet Ministers should understand it too!

Ten shillings a week, here is an unmarried woman's way of spending it—an *unmarried* woman with only herself to keep.

Rent 2s.	Coals 1s.
Washing 6d.	Light 6d.
Bread 1s.	Club 1s.
Flour, Eggs at 1½d. 6d.	Jam 5d.
Tea and sugar 8d.	Milk 7d.
Margarine 5d.	Cocoa 2d.

Total 8s. 9d.

There is only 1s. 3d. a week left and she has bought nothing for dinner and only the most meagre suppers and breakfasts, and no soap, soda, matches, wood and innumerable other extras.

Here is the budget of a woman with four children.

Rent of three rooms	5s. 6d.
Seven quartens of bread	3s. 6d.
One-and-half cwts. coal	2s. od.
Gas	2s. od.
Milk	1s. od.
Insurance	0s. 8d.
Drapery (from Tallyman)	1s. od.
Four lbs. sugar	1s. 3d.
Vegetables	1s. od.
Meat	2s. 6d.
Jam, fruit and biscuits	1s. od.
Tea and cocoa	0s. 8d.
Margarine	1s. od.
Total	£1. 3s. 1d.

The budget is 23s. 1d. already and many more things are needed still. Rent, bread and coal, for the family would have cost more than 10s., and if bread were the only food, more than seven quartens would have been needed!

"Surely you would prefer that all should have necessaries, than that some should have more than is needed, and that others should go short altogether?" people ask, and "yes emphatically yes!" we answer, but both we and they know that by paying 10s. a week to women workers, we shall not secure that none shall go hungry and none shall have too much. That could be done by putting the whole country on a food and fuel allowance but not in this mean and miserable way.

From the human standpoint it is woefully extravagant to pay 10s. to a woman to maintain a family, for when this is done either the family must subsist in a state of chronic starvation, which will result in steady mental and physical deterioration, or the income must be supplemented by State or private charity, both of which are surrounded by conditions of bitter humiliation to the recipient. Some people grow prouder and more sensative as they grow poorer and are starved into accepting charity, others grow more servile. Only the sunniest, sweetest and most bouyant natures can pass unscathed through the withering flame of want—and even they suffer untold things.

The 3d. an hour, or 10s. a week, that is to be paid in the Queen's work rooms tends to register more fixedly than ever the idea that a woman may be employed at a miserably low rate of pay.

The wage of an unskilled labouring man is 5d. an hour; the Wages Boards have no rate higher than 3½d. for skilled women. That is a scandalous blot on our civilization which ought to be intolerable to us all. The minimum rate of wages fixed by the Clothing Trade Board for skilled workers is 3½d. Will the women get that under the Queen's Fund? If they do, we are told, their working hours will be again reduced in order that they may still earn no more than 10s. a week.

We are told that the women will be learning in the workrooms. Will they then receive higher pay, after a few months have passed and they have learnt their trade? Again, we suppose, the answer will be "No, unless the number of hours is reduced."

But, perhaps, as it is suggested, the women may be making garments, some of which may be afterwards given them to wear. *Perhaps*, but the women I saw working at the Distress Committee's workroom in Driffield Rd., were making shirts for the men at Hollesley Bay Labour Colony. These are sold to the men at Hollesley Bay and the price of them is deducted from the allowances made to their wives.

The women in the workroom were also making soldiers' shirts!

But do not imagine, oh you dreamers of new worlds, that the women's workrooms established under the Queen's Fund and those provided by the Distress Committee will save every woman from starvation who wants work.

A girl of 16, a coat machinist earning about 14s., who lost her work through the War, has a father, a plasterer, out of work, and four little brothers and sisters under twelve. She went to the Distress Committee's Offices in Bromley to register, but her appeal for work was refused, because her father *should* be the breadwinner it is said. On making inquiries, I was told that had she been over thirty years of age, the refusal would have been the same.

A girl of eighteen went at the same time to register for work. Her father is still in employment, but her application was refused, because it was said that her father must go with her to prove that *he* was in distress, because his daughter was out of work. To-day too, a girl was refused leave to register, because she had a step-father and the registration Clerk considered that he should be the breadwinner.

Married women too are refused work and relief for many reasons. If a woman has an able bodied husband, even though he would work hard if he could, she cannot have work from the Distress Committee or relief from the Prince of Wales's Fund. If a woman has an invalid husband who has Parish Relief, even if she were maintaining herself and her children until the outbreak of War, the Prince of Wales's Fund will not help her, the Distress Committee will not help her, the Queen's Fund also will probably refuse her work. If a woman has a son of twenty-one she may be refused work by the Distress Committees on the ground that *he* should maintain her.

Unhappy people who are in distress—nothing can be done for them unless their case will fit one of the specified pigeon holes, and women's cases, because they have not been present to press their claims when pigeon holes were being made, most seldom fit.

Work on the new Local Representative Committee or Mayor's Committees, as they are also called, must make every woman realize the handicaps under which we are placed because women have not the Parliamentary vote and have only one-sixth of the representation for municipal purposes.

On the Mayor's Committees are supposed to sit "Representatives of Women's Organisations," but in reality the women on the committees should usually be termed "Special Women" chosen by the various political parties on the Council. As a rule these women do not even belong to genuine organisations of women,—much less are they the women's chosen representatives.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WIVES.

We published last week Mr. Asquith's announcement that the pay of the soldiers' wives is to be increased from October 1st.

A wife without children is to get 12/6 a week, or 16/- in London; with two children 17/6, or 21/- in London; with three children 20/-, or 23/6 in London; with four children or more 22/-, or 25/6 in London.

Relatives, such as mothers and sisters depending upon unmarried soldiers at the front, are also to receive an allowance from the State in addition to the allotment made by the soldier.

These things are to the good, but Mr. Asquith's statement leaves many points in doubt. We do not yet know what sums are to be allowed to the wives and children of sailors, or to the relatives of soldiers, we do not know whether there are to be any allowances to sailors' parents.

Moreover, Mr. Asquith's statement is very ambiguously worded. It is generally taken that the machinery of the Old Age Pensions committees will be used for making allowances to the parents and other relatives of soldiers. Also that the wives and children of soldiers and sailors shall receive their allowances weekly through the Post Office.

We hope, in very truth, that the statement means this, and that the women are to receive their money conveniently, regularly, and as a right without the intervention of any charitably disposed persons, however well meaning!

It is a grave injustice that allowances should be made for no more than four children, and that the mother of a family of twice that size should not be entitled to claim more than 22/-, or 25/6 in London.

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes demands, as before, £1 a week for every soldiers' and sailors' wife in the Kingdom who has no more than two children, and if there are more than two children 10/- for the mother, and 5/- for each child.

The Federation consider that the payment of 3/6 less per week to all the women outside London is especially unfair in the case of women living in large cities like Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham, where the cost of living is little less than in London.

To mitigate distress caused through the war, the Bethnal Green Borough Council has prepared schemes of work costing £60,000.

WAKE UP POPLAR & CANNING TOWN.

CRUEL RESULT OF MAN-MADE LAW.

A young woman asked advice from Mr. Leycester at Thames Police Court, with regard to the execution of a warrant for the arrest of a man who had joined the army, for non-payment of arrears on account of her child.

Mr. Leycester said the matter would have to stand over until the war was ended; but applicant could go to the War Office and see if they could do something for her by deducting from his pay. The War Office is refusing to do anything for unmarried mothers and their children.

The Government have passed an Act to prevent soldiers and sailors wives from borrowing money on the allowances which they are to receive from the War Office. The reason given is that money-lenders charge excessive interest, but if the women had not been cruelly kept waiting for the money to which they are entitled, the need for borrowing would never have arisen.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Goldstone asked whether the interests of poor policy holders would be safeguarded, as the Prudential Assurance Company have issued a circular to their agents instructing them to insist on the payment of industrial insurance premiums on a threat of the policy being lapsed.

The Attorney General refused to give a definite promise.

SOLDIERS' FAMILIES' QUARTERS

The Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps have addressed a letter to the Prime Minister, in the course of which they say:—

"We note that large numbers of married women have been called upon to vacate their quarters in barracks to make room for recruits as to whose accommodation in camps there has been complaint and discontent. Eight hundred of such families have been turned out of Woolwich alone. The frightful distress consequent upon such treatment of a very helpless class of women cannot be estimated, and we would remind you that these women married 'on the strength'—that is to say, on a Government guarantee that they should have quarters. We hold that a breach of this guarantee at a time when it will be most felt will be a public reproach, and that it is the duty of the Government to provide other free quarters for the families of soldiers instead of turning them loose to find accommodation at a rent which may be in excess of the allowance made by the Government. We do not believe that the Government can be callous to these claims at such a time as the present.

"We must also beg you to give your earnest and sympathetic consideration of the pensions for widows and destitute mothers of soldiers. It has been a crying reproach to the country, and the time seems a fitting one to set this matter, which we understand you to believe to be one of considerable difficulty, on a right footing. We cannot imagine that had women held any authority in the country that these matters would have been unattended to till the arrival of a serious emergency."

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT FOR WOMEN.

The National Federation of Women Workers is urging that the Unemployment Section of the Insurance Act should be extended to all women's industries. In this way every unemployed woman could claim 7s. a week, and would receive it without the humiliating conditions which surround many grants of relief.

Seven shillings a week is a miserable pittance it is true, but it is important that the women should have this small sum to depend on, until useful work at a fair rate of wages is found for them, as it ought to be.

The Manchester Board of Guardians in the week ending September 5th, relieved 3,280 persons at a cost of £262. In the corresponding week of last year, they relieved 649 persons at a cost of £69. Here, indeed, is abundant evidence of distress! The Manchester Board is well-known for its lack of generosity.

(continued from front page.)

30s. Rent 5s. 6d. 8 children, thirteen, twelve, ten, eight, four, three and-a-half, two years, and three months. Pawning for food and coal, has no bed-clothes for children. Four of the children, being under school age, get no dinners. Nothing was coming into the house when they first came to us. The Parish now allows them 5s. 6d. worth of food.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

The next demand made was for more hospital accomodation and for free treatment and medicine during the war for all children and necessitous adults, also for a Municipal hospital for the borough of Poplar.

To illustrate the need for free medicine and hospital treatment, cases were cited where all the bread winners had been thrown out of work through the War and the mothers were unable to take their children to be treated as out patients because they could not pay the 4d. or 6d. that was charged at each visit.

In regard to hospital accomodation, it was pointed out that Bow, Bromley and Poplar are poorly supplied at normal periods and the need for further accomodation is now accentuated owing to the war.

Mr. Burns intervened to say that the number of wounded soldiers returned to the country had been greatly exaggerated. He said that he did not think that hospitals were refusing to take in patients on that account.

Miss S. Pankhurst then quoted the case of a woman, whose baby was critically ill with pneumonia. She took it to the London Hospital, but it was refused admission because of the wounded soldiers. It was received into Bethnal Green Workhouse Infirmary, where it was placed on the danger list, so she was able to see it each day. After four days, she removed it, because it was grossly neglected. She complained to the Board, who finally thanked her and remitted the fee.

Mrs. Drake gave a case in which a baby of two years was wasting and could not walk. The mother, who was short of food for herself and three children, could not get it into hospital. In another case a baby with a cleft palate could not be admitted to the London Hospital till after the war.

CARE OF MOTHER'S AND BABIES.

Miss S. Pankhurst then urged the need for putting into operation the Local Government Board's proposals for free medical attention and nursing, care for nursing and expectant mothers, and children under school age. She urged that medical attention should be combined with milk and other nourishment.

She quoted the case of a woman whose husband was out of employment through the War, and whose four months old baby was wasting. The child was an out patient at the Queen's Hospital, Hackney Road. The mother was being charged by the hospital 4d. each week, and it cost her 4d. bus fare to go and come back. The baby was given Scott's Emulsion by the hospital. The mother was feeding the baby and was herself in a very poor state of health. The E.L.F.S. gave milk and barley water daily, and a free dinner daily to the mother for a week. At the end of that time, the Federation paid the hospital fee, but asked the matron to remit it in future. She agreed to do so and sent a message thanking the Federation for the wonderful improvement in the baby's condition. The Federation at the time had on its books from two wards of Bow alone, over a hundred mothers who were unable to get adequate nourishment. Expectant and nursing mothers and young babies could not afford to go short of nourishment even for a few days.

A MINIMUM WAGE FOR WOMEN.

Coming to the question of unemployed women, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst said that the members of the Federation were greatly distressed to learn that it was proposed to pay a maximum wage of 10s. a week to the women employed in the workrooms established in connection with the Queen's Work for Women Fund. It was not possible for a woman to maintain herself and her children on 10s. a week, the difference would have to be made up either by State or private charity. The best and most upright women hated charity, they liked to feel they were living on what they had a right to. If women went outside their homes to work, they were entitled to receive in return enough to maintain them in comfort. 3d. an hour was below the Clothing Trade Board Rate which was already too low. 5d. an hour was the rate at which a man, an unskilled labourer was paid—it was surely not too much to ask that a woman should be paid the same. The Federation demanded that women employed on relief work, whether under the Queen's fund, the Prince of Wales's fund, the Distress Committees, or any other public funds, should receive a minimum wage of £1 a week or 5d. an hour.

Cases were quoted, both by Miss S. Pankhurst and Mrs. Drake to show the absolute inadequacy of the 10s. a week rate.

Miss Pankhurst further said that the gross underpayment of women in all branches of industry had for long been a disgrace to the country and urged that if relief committees would set the example of paying a living wage and the Government force their contractors to do so, private employers would be compelled to follow suit, and a general and lasting improvement would be secured. The raising of the standard of women's wages was more imperative now than it had ever been. For many years to come, women, because of the war, would be obliged to do much of the work that had been done by men. The standard of living for the population would fall unless the wages of women could be increased.

Mr. Burns expressed much sympathy with this view and advised an interview between the East London Federation's representatives and Miss Mary Macarthur. He said that he would be glad to act as Chairman during the interview.

HOUSING.

The next question raised, was that of housing. Rents were high in East London, and the accommodation provided for the money was very bad. A case was quoted in which the husband, a casual labourer, had been out of work six weeks, there were six children, the family lived in two rooms for which they paid 4s., the wife was a coat finisher and might have done some of this work to keep the home going, but the Inspector refused to allow it because the household was to crowded. To show the need for housing reform in East London, Mr. Burns was reminded that in the North Ward of Poplar, the lower rooms of many houses are flooded with foul smelling water at high tides and during heavy rains; also that in one of the alleys near Bow Obelisk, it is possible for a boy of ten to stand astride the street, propping himself up with one foot on a house window sill on one side and the other foot against the bricks of the opposite wall.

Many builders and labourers were out of work, and their wives and families were suffering with them. The East London Federation of the Suffragettes urged, that in order both to provide employment and to improve conditions in the district, all pieces of waste ground should be secured and either houses with gardens should be built upon them, or they should be turned into playgrounds for the children living far from a park. The Borough Council was the authority which they were told should take the initiative and the Federation was about to ask the Council to receive a deputation, but Local Authorities were often very slow to move and it was not unnatural that this should be so in a district like Bow and Bromley, where the rates could be counted as being more than half as much as the rent (shillings in the pound), and where the vast majority of the people were very poor.

The Federation desired to urge that a portion of the £4,000,000, which had just been set aside for housing, should be spent in the Borough of Poplar. Bethnal Green, and other Boroughs also stood in very urgent need.

Mr. Burns agreed that the East End Housing was very bad and seemed to suggest that a portion of the £4,000,000 ought certainly to go to Poplar and other East London districts.

EVICTIONS.

On the question of evictions. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst stated, that in the last few days five women had come to the Women's Hall with notices to quit from their Landlords. These women and others like them were suffering, both because they and their husbands were unemployed through the War and because the prices of food had gone up. Various arrangements had been made to safeguard the big business interests, what was to be done to safeguard the homes of poor people? Miss Pankhurst quoted the case of a Mrs. C. of Bow.

This woman had four children, and supported herself and them with the help of 2s. 6d. a week that one of them earned. The woman was in arrears with her rent and the magistrate at Old Street had given her a week to clear out. The woman worked at trouser finishing. The firm for which she worked had taken ½d. off every pair, and in the first three days of the previous week she had only earned 1s. 8d.

Miss Pankhurst said, that she had written to the Board of Trade in regard to the lowering of rates for trouser finishing and Mr. Burns eagerly assented: "Yes they have got their Wages Board rates" and himself jotted down the particulars. With regard to the eviction she had written to the Home Secretary, but Mr. McKenna had replied that he could do nothing.

"I am sure you ought to know by now Miss Pankhurst, that the Home Secretary never can interfere with a magistrate's decision," said Mr. Burns with a meaning smile, and Miss S. Pankhurst, remembering many prevarications in regard to past suffragette cases, answered: "So it is said."

Mr. Burns then referred to the fact that an Act has been passed because of the War, which makes it necessary for a landlord to obtain an order from a magistrate before a tenant can be ejected. Mr. Burns said that the West London Magistrates were refusing to issue such orders and expressed the view that no one would be ejected during the War.

Mrs. Drake said that the ejectment notices which landlords were serving upon the people were terrifying them into selling and pawning all that they could, and into going short of food. What the people needed, was an assurance from the Government that they were safe.

Miss S. Pankhurst said, that attached to the notices to quit, which she had seen, were newspaper reports of the cases in which families had been evicted and their furniture sold. One woman living in Bow, whose husband was out of work and who had a baby seven days old, had had one of these notices served on her and was crying over it in bed when an E.L.F.S. canvasser called.

Mr. Burns said the people need not fear, no one would be turned out. [*But next day one of the Magistrates at Old Street Police Station, ordered a family to quit in three weeks time because their rent had fallen into arrears.* The father of the family was out of work through the War He tried to make ends meet by doing any odd jobs that offered, and fell off a ladder when cleaning windows, not being used to that sort of work and perhaps also faint through want of food.]

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WIVES.

In regard to the wives of soldiers and sailors, it was urged that they had suffered much hardship and humiliation through the delay in granting them any money at all, the meagreness of the allowances and the method in which the money was made up and paid over to them. At first many women had been kept weeks without any money at all and, even now, most of the women had received less than they ought to have.

It was wrong that the women, beside having to send up birth and marriage certificates to the War Office, should have to submit to minute and often fussy and impertinent cross examination from officials of the Soldiers' and Sailors' families association beside. The wives and children of the soldiers were entitled to a fair wage on behalf of the men at the front, and ought not to be placed in the position of suppliants for charity.

The Federation demanded on behalf of these women, that they should be paid weekly through the Post Office a minimum of £1 a week for a woman living alone, or with one or two children, and where there were three or more children, 10s. for the mother and 5s. for each child.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

Where a man and woman had lived together as husband and wife and where the man had been acting as a father to the children, the same allowance should be paid as though the marriage had been legal.

PARENTS AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

The parents and younger brothers and sisters who had been supported by soldiers' and sailors' were now suffering greatly. Cases of this kind were quoted. The Federation urged that in the case of parents and brothers and sisters who had been supported by the men at the front, the same allowance should be made as that to wives and children, or the same amount as the son had contributed when employed at home.

GENERAL DISTRESS.

In regard to general distress occasioned by the War, the Federation was impatient at the long delay in dealing with the problem. It was said that the number of persons who had registered as applicants for relief under the Prince of Wales's fund was not yet very great, but why should those who had registered be left to starve because other people had not done so?

There were various reasons why larger numbers of people had not registered. One was that the places and conditions of registration were still unknown to many. Another great reason was that people were expected to register in so many different places. People living in Bow had to walk to Poplar to register at the Labour Exchange, to Hackney to register for work under the Distress Committee, they had to go in another direction to register at the library for the Prince of Wales's Fund, and to yet another place for relief from the Board of Guardians. They were faint from hunger and the effort of walking from place to place was almost beyond them, and they were daunted by having the long series of particulars to answer in each separate office.

The Federation wished to urge that one registration at the Free Library, or whatever office had been appointed for the district, should be sufficient for all purposes, and that necessary particulars should be sent through by the officials to Labour Exchanges, Distress Committees and Boards of Guardians. Or that Labour Exchanges should be opened in each district and that registration for Distress Committees and the Prince of Wales' Fund be combined in the same office, in order to avoid the present confusion and unnecessary multiplication of effort.

INACTION OF COMMITTEES.

A principal reason of the failure to register was due to the fact that nothing was being done to provide work and alleviate distress. Ward Committees set up to deal with the Prince of Wales' Fund investigated cases and discussed their investigations, but they had neither work nor relief to give.

UNEMPLOYED WOMEN.

The East London Federation urged that the Distress Committees should immediately open factories for making garments, shoes, hats, brushes and other things that were staple

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DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser—Mrs. WATKINS.
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Good street-corner and indoor meetings during the week. Mrs. T. Gough and Mrs. Drake gave interesting addresses at the Women's Hall, on Sunday. We are indebted to Miss Gatwood for rousing tunes on the piano, and to members who take collection and help at the literature stall. Will members do their utmost to advertise these meetings. Who will volunteer to chalk every Saturday?

The Poster parade last Saturday aroused a great deal of interest and 30 papers were disposed of by one seller. More volunteers are wanted for Saturday, Sept. 26th, when the Poster parade will start from the Poplar office at 3 p m. Members from all districts and men sympathisers are invited to take part. Will members and friends bear in mind the dinner party at the Women's Hall, on Saturday, Sept. 26th, at 8 p.m. (tickets 3d. each). Thanks to members who sold papers at West End meetings. More volunteers for this important work are needed, also more regular helpers at the stall on Friday and Saturday. Two new members were enrolled at the meeting last Monday. We wish to make an urgent appeal to members to bring unconverted friends to these meetings, and thus increase the membership of the Federation.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Sep. 18 :—
Central 385. Bow and Bromley 367.

Mrs. Payne	58
Mrs. Watkins	52
Mrs. Connell	154

DISTRIBUTED.

Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. McCheyne, 350; Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore, 250; Mrs. Savoy, 250; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Morris, 200; Mrs. Clarke, 200; Mrs. Mantle, 200; Mrs. Pascoe, 100; Mrs. Lake, 100.

POPLAR.

Office—319 East India Dock Road.
Organiser (pro. tem.)—Mrs. Drake.

On Tuesday evening usual meeting was held at Dock Gates—Mrs. Schlette and Mrs. Drake spoke. Our audience was very interested and we should have sold more papers, only the men who would have bought them, being casual labourers, could not afford to do so. All classes of workers are suffering terribly as a result of the war. Mrs. Dove Willcox was our speaker on Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon. Miss Buchan kindly obliged by getting tea ready. Our usual Piggott Street meeting was put off owing to a meeting at 400, but we shall be there next week. Miss Jones, a sympathiser came to the office and gave 1s. towards distress fund and also fetched some jars for preserves. Our paper-sellers who usually sell on Sunday, had a day's holiday this week, but they will be selling as usual next Sunday and will soon make up for lost time. More paper-sellers wanted *please*. Indoor meeting will be changed from Wednesday to Tuesday on September 29th.

210 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Sep. 18
Mrs. Walker 70, Mrs. Schlette & Mrs. Hicks 62 in office, Miss Lagsding 50. Distributed 500.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. Daisy Parsons,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Mrs. Davies gave an interesting speech at "Peacock," on Monday, and six papers were sold. Special rally meeting next Thursday, and all members are asked to attend. We have been having very small attendances lately, which is very disappointing to the speakers. All members will be grieved to hear of the death of Mr. Tidmarsh, the man who fought so hard at Canning Town Public Hall to get Miss Pankhurst in and out again without arrest. Our united sympathy goes to Mrs. Tidmarsh and her daughter.

The list of distributors has grown smaller since the war began. The names of people who are taking papers are :—Mrs. Millo, Mrs. Pullen, Miss Leggett, Miss Grimes, Miss Penn, Miss Greenleaf and Miss Nicholas.

Will more members come along and take a few?

SCHOOL CHILDREN'S GIFT.

A parcel from the children in the third Grade of Princetown Street School, Covent Garden, was sent to us with a letter from one of the class and love for the children in East London. This contained a number of useful children's garments and a very pretty bed quilt ingeniously wadded with paper to give extra warmth.

Mr. Tyson Wilson, M.P., demanded from the Financial Secretary to the War Office, that the provision of the fair wages resolution should be enforced on all work executed by War Office contractors. Mr. Baker promised to see to it, but women cannot get fair wages even in the Queen's workrooms!

OUR EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

Our women who can work, care more for work than charitable doles of food, and what we want most of all is money to set them to work to make clothes to give away to those destitute mothers who are unable or have too many children to be able to do anything beyond the unpaid labour of caring for their homes and children.

Who will pay 5/6 to make a serge dress and knickers to match for a little girl of five, and 1/11 for an overall.

Who will pay 2/- for a baby's cotton nightgown?

Who will pay 2/6 for a baby's flannel barra coat?

Prices for other garments on application.

Our 'COST PRICE' RESTAURANTS

The customers to our restaurants are still on the increase. We urgently need gifts of soup plates, dishes, cups, jugs, knives and forks, spoons, glasses, pans, boilers, gas rings and other utensils; also fruit, vegetables and groceries. We open another restaurant at our new Bromley Woman's Hall, Railway Street, on Monday, September 28th.

OUR BABIES' MILK CENTRES.

The number of expectant and nursing mothers, babies and invalids to whom milk is given is growing rapidly, in spite of the fact that we help only the more urgent cases. We urgently need gifts of milk, eggs, arrowroot, barley, or money to buy these.

We wish to be able to lend necessitous mothers the necessary outfits for their babies, for the first months, and to give them the first set of short baby clothes.

With the money subscribed for finding employment, we are getting baby clothes made, and paying unemployed women for making these things. Those who would give money and materials for making baby clothes would help in one of the best possible ways. Gifts of baby clothes can be made good use of, also nightdresses and sheets for the mothers. Even old sheets can be cut up for babies' napkins. We are starting clothing stalls at our centres, where those who care to pay a little for new and second-hand clothes can buy.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

Misses A.B. £1, Mrs. Taylor 5/-, Miss J. 5/-, Miss Gertrude Lowy 5/-, Mrs. Luscomb £1, Miss E. Hancock 6/-, Miss Gwen Richard 2/6, Mrs. A. M. Burke £1 1/-, H. Smalley, Esq. 5/-, Miss Milman 10/-, Miss Dora Lemon 6d. Tom Norris 5/-, Anon 10/-, Mrs. Lehman 5/-, Mrs. Webb Smithwick £1, F. J. £2/10/-, Mrs. Hawkins 5/-, Mrs. South 2/-, Miss Hudson 5/-, Anon 5/-, Mrs. Wilkinson £1, Mrs. and Miss Chappelow 5/-, A Sympathiser 2/6, Returned by nurse £1.

For Milk and General Distress:
Mrs. Harverson 6/-, Miss Setchfield 2/-, Miss F. J. Pell 1/-, Mrs. Joachim £2, Miss M. J. £6, Mrs. Mary Taylor 1/-, Messrs. Clark, Cameron and Taylor 3/-, Mrs. M. K. Richardson £1 5/-, Rev. Cyril Isherwood 10/8, Miss Yeoman 5/-, Miss Eileen Hickey 5/-, Miss Lizzie Hilyer 2/6, Anon £1, Miss M. H. Graham 1/6, Miss Wilmot 10/-, Members of A.S.L.E. & F. Bow Branch 1/6, Miss Heastman 1/-, Mrs. Jones 10/-, Miss E. A. Jones 10/-, Miss Ada Frisby 5/-, Miss Mary Coombs 2/-, Mrs. Renthe 4/-, per Miss Buchan collecting box 9/2, Miss Elizabeth Thompson 2/6, Mrs. Tollermache £1, Mrs. Baillie Weaver £1, J. E. Pen 2/6, A. C. Richards 5/-, Miss E. J. Pritchard 1/-, Poplar collected 12/7, Mrs. Barnes 2/-, Miss Goldblatt 2/2, Miss M. Rock for "Snowstorm's" collecting box 5/-, Miss D. Rock 5/-, "Cuckoo" 2/-, Mrs. Condottia collection 4/5½, Mrs. Richmond 2/6, Anon £1, Mrs. Reinold 2/6, Anon 1/4, Mrs. A. Newman 3/-, Miss Powell 3/-, Miss Grainger £1, A. D. Tomkins 4/-, Misses Fussell £1.

Anon—Pearl Barley, Boracic Powder, Starch Powder, Cotton Wool, Lint, Coal Tar Soap.
Mrs. Alexander—Vegetables.
Miss Fedden—Vegetables and Fruit.
Miss Milman—Oatmeal, Raisins, Candied Peel, Haricot Beans, Hominy.
Miss A. L. Durham—Eggs.
Misses Cottman and Miss A. L. Durham—Quarter ton of Fruit.
A friend—Apples.
An Allotment Holder—Potatoes.
Miss Fowler—Rice.
Clothes—Mrs. Canning, Mrs. Goulden, Miss E. M. Hickey, Miss Dora Gregory, Miss Elizabeth Thompson, Mrs. Reinold, Miss T. A. Hinton, Mrs. Laski.

I enclose 4s. 4d. to pay for a year's subscription for the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT to be sent post free to,

Name.....

Address.....

(*Continued from page* 111.)

trades in the district. If it was desired not to compete with the ordinary trade, these things could be usefully given to destitute women who were too ill, or had too many young children, for it to be right that they should undertake wage earning in addition to caring for their children and homes. Food preserving factories should also be opened, and the Government be asked to allow food to come to these factories free. They urged that the general railway rates on food should be greatly reduced. The food preserved in the Local Representative Committee's factories could be used under the control of the Local Representative Committees, and especially in connection with the feeding of children and nursing and expectant mothers. Restaurants should be established in connection with this scheme, and work would thus be found for unemployed women in a large variety of ways.

Attention was further drawn to the excessive overtime which is being exacted from their workpeople by certain Government contractors.

Mr. JOHN BURNS' REPLY.

Mr. John Burns said that he had carefully noted all the points raised and that each would be carefully considered. He wished the deputation to realize that the Government and the Cabinet Committees had been working early and late to keep bodies of people employed and to keep the prices down and in large measure they had succeeded in doing so. To this end they had lifted the embargo on food export and import and they had called the sugar dealers together and induced them to pool their stocks and to sell at an agreed price.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN—ARISE!

Winter draws near, and there is grave reason to fear much suffering for the little ones from hunger and privation.

It is nothing new—each year we have a heavy toll of infant deaths (some 80,000 working-class babies, so the Registrar General's returns tell us, die every year from the effects of the awful conditions into which they are born in this country), and some people comfort themselves that it is only the weaklings that are weeded out, though the damage done by the same causes to the survivors somehow escapes their attention. Many families go short habitually, from economic causes the philosophers tell us, and we rest satisfied, or at least inactive.

This year there will be a heavier list, and the direct cause is WAR, war that kills more of a nation by disease and privation than on the battlefield!

And we women, who hate war more than men because our place being the home, we see the ravages war makes in the homes—what are we going to do?

We cannot save the soldier on the battlefield, he takes his life in his hands and plays the game of chance—we can only pray that he come back safe.

But *here* we can ACT. What of the soldier's children, born and yet to come? What of the mother of his children? What of their sufferings—not only *their* anguish from day to day, hoping against hope for his safety—but the pangs of hunger?

The war is in its second month, yet we hear nothing so far of any widespread scheme to save the children's lives. With the heavy toll at the front, is it too much to hope that a wise far-seeing nation—the richest in the world—will set before itself the aim of saving *every child* whose life may be threatened by some preventable cause, especially hunger and exposure? Surely not a singly baby's life should we lose this year, just because of the terrible drain on the nation's manhood on the battlefield.

The social reformers have been studying and writing, and working for so long now that everyone knows the means to be adopted, and the only thing that keeps back their activities is lack of funds. Think of it—*money* can save children's lives, and yet the lives are still being thrown away, and more and more homes are in danger of coming to grief in the immediate future. We must hasten ere the winter is upon us.

The financiers have taught us how to save the situation in a crisis—appeal to the highest insistently—to those who have power to pass emergency measures in a few moments, and since a beginning must be made by those hardest hit, surely the wives of the soldiers and sailors must take the lead.

A short six weeks ago their bread-winners were with them, and at the first call of danger to their country, they threw down their tools and offered themselves, confident that their dear ones would be looked after in their absence.

Although this promise has been made more than once in public, we know that many a family has experienced very grave hardships for days and weeks at a time.

Just now, the most popular man is he who is ready to defend the honour of his country at the front, and the most popular woman is assuredly his wife.

Therein lies a great force, and since she remains behind, *she* is responsible for the home—*she* must see to it that it remains intact until the father of her children returns.

It is *she* who must act, and act quickly, if the lives of her children are to be saved. Gather together then, in your hundreds and thousands, you mothers and wives of soldiers, march up to headquarters and let the powers that be know your pressing need at first hand.

Put not your trust in hosts of under-officials and investigators. While they compile their statistics and reports, your children are getting weaker. Every soldier at the front has a home and dependents and since he is away, a grateful country knows her liabilities without any further enquiries. It is not a matter of managing *somehow*, but of providing the full wages of the absent breadwinners. Only so can the homes of England be maintained.

You women have given of your dearest to the service of the country—you have every right to expect for your man not a dole but a living wage. He is doing much more than his day's work, he is giving *himself*.

It is said that Lord Kitchener has abolished hunger and thirst in Egypt—that none lacks food, raiment and shelter. Go to him, and see to it that your little ones are protected and sheltered and fed, while he has need of their fathers.

Time was when it was risky for women to march with their infants in their arms from the East End to the Mother of Parliaments. Now you will find all ready to help you and cheer you on your tramp, you mothers and wives of the Defenders of the Empire. The police will shew you every courtesy, for you are the most beloved of England's women.

Demand the upkeep of your homes and your little ones, and enough of it, so long as your breadwinners are away. It is your right you are asking for, and not for a dole of charity

On all sides the note of dissatisfaction becomes more insistent, but unless *you yourselves* demand your rights with no uncertain voice, your friends and well-wishers are weakened in their efforts to help you, for they are told "There is no distress yet"!!

"Who would be free, *herself* must strike the blow." Strike hard and strike now, ere your homes have vanished and your babies languish for lack of food.

B. Tchaykovsky.

FROM THE WAR OFFICE.

In response to a letter addressed by the E. L. F. S. to the Cabinet Relief Committee complaining that a a certain factory in Poplar was employing women on Government contracts at a disgracefully low wage, and for long hours of overtime, whilst other workers in the same factory and neighbouring factories were either on short time or entirely unemployed, the Director of Army Contracts at the War Office writes: "I am informed that steps are now being taken to enlarge the number of competent workpeople available to work on army orders, and there is every reason to hope that the object in view will be attained."

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND

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